

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

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ACTION SPM-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 OIC-04 SWF-02 AID-20

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 HEW-08 CEQ-02 H-03 SP-03

SS-20 NSC-07 USIA-15 EPA-04 SCI-06 DRC-01 /159 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3899

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 5389

EO 11652: NA.

TAGS: OCON, SPOP, UNWCP, AS.

SUBJECT: WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE.

REF: CANBERRA 4878.

1. DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER AUGUST 15 THAT MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION AND LABOR CAMERON WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE LEADING GOA DELEGATION AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED. DELEGATION HEAD WILL BE PERMANENT SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR, DR. IAN SHARP. DFA OFFICERS MADE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL COMMENTS DURING CONVERSATION ON SUBJECT OF CONFERENCE.

2. AFTER APOLOGIZING FOR FAILURE TO COMMENT ON U.S. DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION EARLIER IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S REQUEST, THEY SAID GOA "HAD NO DISPUTE IN BROAD PRINCIPLE" WITH U.S. DRAFT. DRAFT HAD BEEN READ WITH GREAT INTEREST AND COPIES DISTRIBUTED TO ALL MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION. GOA HAD RESERVATIONS WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIC GROWTH GOALS PROPOSED IN U.S. PLAN, HOWEVER. AUSTRALIANS ARE INCLINED TO TAKE LDC SENSITIVITIES MORE INTO ACCOUNT, PARTICULARLY SINCE THIS WAS FIRST TIME WORLD POPULATION DISCUSSED IN UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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"POLITICAL CONTEXT" SUCH AS PRESENT CONFERENCE. GOA ACTUALLY REGARDS BUCHAREST CONFERENCE AS

LARGELY "CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING EFFORT" AND NOT
OCCASION ON WHICH TO ESTABLISH FIRM GOALS.

3. DFA OFFICERS ALSO REQUESTED INFORMATION AS
TO U.S. POSITION ON SPECIFIC QUESTION OF POSSIBLE
CONFLICT BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS OF COUPLES TO DECIDE
SIZE OF FAMILIES VS. GOVERNMENT RIGHT TO SET
POPULATION GROWTH GOALS. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY
WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE ON THIS POINT
IN ORDER TO PROVIDE US OCCASION TO MAINTAIN
DIALOGUE WITH DFA ON SUBJECT OF POPULATIONS.

4. DISCUSSION CLOSED WITH DFA EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
IN CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN U.S. AND GOA DELEGATIONS
IN BUCHAREST AND APPRECIATION FOR OPPORTUNITY TO
REVIEW U.S. DRAFT PLAN IN ADVANCE.
HARROP

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